

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1 and 3-5 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 2 and 9 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2, 6-8 and 12-14 are now pending in this application, whereby claims 9-11 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Request for Entry of After-Final Amendment and Reply:

It is respectfully requested that this after-final amendment and reply be considered and entered, since it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance, and at the very least it is believed to lessen the number of potential issues for appeal.

Withdrawn Claims 9-11:

In the Office Action, claims 9-11 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to the second embodiment that includes ‘resilient packing.’ While claims 9-11 include resilient packing, they also include a polarizing plate that has a window, and thus they recite an important patentable feature that is also recited (slightly differently, by way of a ‘cutout’) in the claims of the first embodiment. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 9-11 should also be examined in this application.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 2, 7-8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,691,962 to Schwartz et al (“Schwartz”); claims 1, 4, 7, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030123327 to Guanter (“Guanter”); and claims 3 and 6 were

rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020027620 to Platz ("Platz"). These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 2 recites, among other things, that the polarizing plate is cut out at the portion corresponding to the optically transparent displaying section.

On the contrary, Schwartz fails to disclose or suggest that the polarizing plate 14a is cut out at the portion corresponding to an optically transparent displaying section.

The Office Action suggests that the cut out corresponds to the area 13 as shown in Figure 2 of Schwartz. However, the area 13 is provided in the dial plate 11 of Schwartz, and is not provided on a polarizing plate.

Accordingly, since none of the other cited art of record rectifies the above-mentioned deficiencies of Schwartz, presently pending independent claim 2, as well as the presently pending dependent claims that depend from claim 2, are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Phillip J. Articola

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal
Registration No. 40,888

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819